



# Dexter City Update

Winter 2023

Volume 9, Issue 1

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## Winter Maintenance

With winter weather upon us, the Dexter Department of Public Works would like to remind Dexter residents about important information regarding winter maintenance and snow removal. Listed below are the City's snow removal priorities and ways you can help make plowing and salting easier for our DPW crews as they keep our streets clear.

### Road Priority

Generally, snow will be removed and/or roads will be salted in the following priority:

1. Major Roads (Central, Baker, Main, Broad)/Downtown
2. Local Streets
3. Alleys
4. Parking Lots

Once the roadways have been cleared, crews will return to remove and/or relocate the snow piles in cul-de-sacs and downtown parking areas. The work is often done in the middle of the night for ease of access and for safety purposes due to the lower traffic volumes.

### How You Can Help

- Remove vehicles from the roads and public parking areas during and after winter storms
- Dig out fire hydrants so they are accessible at all times
- Remove snow from sidewalks within 48 hours of snow cessation in residential areas and within four hours of snow cessation of the start of business in commercial areas
- Keep all snow removed from sidewalks and driveways on your property
- Remove all personal items (including basketball hoops) from the road right-of-way so that they are not in the way of plow trucks
- Exercise extreme caution during inclement weather
- Please use caution when using the downtown sidewalks, stairs, and boardwalks in the winter months.

**Spring  
Clean-Up Day  
will be  
May 15, 2023**

## City E-Mail Update

Interested in timely Dexter News?

Sign up for the email list by emailing the City Manager at [JBreyer@DexterMI.gov](mailto:JBreyer@DexterMI.gov)

## Westridge Tree Trimming Notice

Every year, the City of Dexter conducts tree trimming on City trees located within the right-of-way. The City is divided into six (6) sections related to tree trimming, with a different sections completed on a rotating schedule. In FY 2021-22, the City's arborist completed Huron Farms and Dexter Crossing. For the 2022-23 tree trimming, the City's arborist will be trimming trees in Westridge. Tree trimming is anticipated to begin in February 2023. Questions can be directed to the City's Department of Public Works at 734-426-8530.

## City Committee Openings

### 2023-24 Student Representatives

The City of Dexter is seeking a total of eight (8) Youth Board Representatives (2 to each) for the: the Dexter City Council; Planning Commission; Parks and Recreation Commission; and Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee. These positions are designed to be mutually beneficial to both the students and the Committees or Commissions on which they serve. The students shall gain a tremendous learning experience about the workings of local government and the policymaking process, while the Committees and Commissions benefit by having the perspectives of younger members of the community. Student representatives shall not have voting privileges, but may participate in all discussions. Appointments would be made in June 2023. Applications are due May 19th, 2023.

Eligible applicants must live in the Dexter Community School District (preference will be given to City residents), and be in grades 9 – 12 (preference will be given to students in grades 11 – 12). Students who attend private school, public school, or home school are welcome to apply. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in local government, a willingness to learn about complex issues, confidence in sharing their opinion and speaking in front of a large group, and a commitment to the Dexter community. Applicants should also desire to serve as a liaison between the City of Dexter and the high school population. For additional information on the program, please visit the City's website at: [https://dextermi.gov/bid\\_detail\\_T48\\_R90.php](https://dextermi.gov/bid_detail_T48_R90.php)

### Downtown Development Authority

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is seeking one new member. The DDA meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 am and has 12 members that are responsible for promoting economic growth; encourage commercial revitalization and historic preservation; authorize the collection of taxes; and using tax increment financing to accomplish specific activities. The purpose of the DDA is to correct and prevent deterioration within the City's business district.

### Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee is seeking one new member. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm and is an 11-member group that advises City Council on the development of arts, culture and heritage; promotes and publicizes projects that support arts, culture and heritage; serves as advocates for arts, culture, and heritage and encourages networking and collaborations of the arts, culture, and heritage of the City of Dexter.

### How to Apply

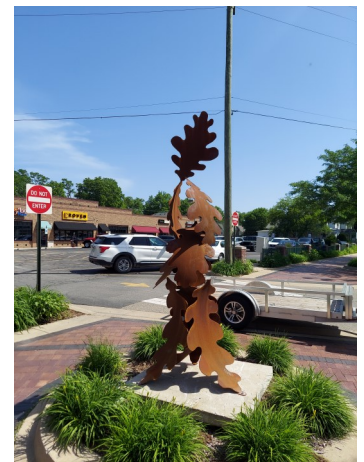
To apply, please submit a Committee Application Form to the City Offices at 8123 Main St., 2nd Floor or by e-mail to [jbreyer@dextermi.gov](mailto:jbreyer@dextermi.gov). The application form is available on the City's website at: [https://www.dextermi.gov/Permits\\_and\\_Forms/General\\_Permits/committee\\_application\\_2020\\_1.pdf](https://www.dextermi.gov/Permits_and_Forms/General_Permits/committee_application_2020_1.pdf).

## Call for Artists - Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival

Artist registration for the 2023 Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival is now open. This year the festival will run from Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. To register, please visit the Paint Dexter website at <https://paintdexter.com/artist-registration/>. We hope that you will join us for a fun week of painting!

## Call for Entries - Dexter Art Gardens Temporary Sculpture Display

The "Dexter Art Gardens" is an annual outdoor artwork exhibition sponsored by the Dexter Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee and the City of Dexter. Up to five (5) temporary outdoor artworks will be juried and placed on temporary display along with the City's permanent collection for one (1) year: June 2023 – May 2024. The selected pieces will be installed on concrete pads in highly trafficked locations throughout Dexter. For more information or to submit an application, please visit the City of Dexter's Call for Entries platform, CaFE at: [https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals\\_unique\\_info.php?ID=11335](https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=11335). Submitting an application via the CaFE site is free. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, February 23rd, 2023.



## Car Locking Reminder

The Sheriff's Office is encouraging residents to make sure car doors are locked and that vehicles are secured at all times. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity. Many stolen vehicles are taken by opening an unlocked door and finding a set of keys hidden within the vehicle. Even if parked in your own driveway or garage, locking doors, rolling up windows, and removing valuables is encouraged. Tips to prevent theft from your vehicle or a stolen vehicle:

1. Secure your vehicle: Make sure to always lock your doors and roll up your windows.
2. Know where your keys are: If you have multiple sets of keys make sure you know where they are. Losing a set for a thief to find, or leaving them on the hook just inside your door and in plain view are just two of the more common ways for a thief to take your keys and come back at a later time to take your vehicle.
3. Parking matters: When possible, park in a well-lit area, use your garage, or park near doors to your home or office. If parking in your garage, close the garage door and lock the door to the house.
4. Valuables: Always remove valuables from your vehicle when possible. If valuables are left in the vehicle do not leave them in plain view. Store them in the trunk or locked glove box. Never leave important personal items such as identification cards, passports, social security cards, credit/debit cards or portable computers in unattended vehicles.
5. Idling vehicle: Do not leave your car running while you run into the gas station or when warming it up or cooling it down. All it takes is a few seconds for an opportunistic thief to come along.
6. Report any thefts from your vehicle promptly. If you see any suspicious activity around your vehicle or another vehicle report the incident to 911 as soon as possible.

# WE *LOVE* DEXTER

We Love Dexter highlights submissions of photographs, drawings, paintings, songs, poems, and short stories that represent what the Dexter community **loves** about Dexter. All February long, residents can visit the displays in storefronts across town to see the art created by residents of all ages that show what they cherish most about Dexter.

**FIND A DISPLAY NEAR YOU  
FEBRUARY 1ST-28TH**



Sponsored by the Arts,  
Culture & Heritage  
Committee

# WHAT DO YOU *LOVE* ABOUT DEXTER?



## 3515 Broad Street City Hall Update

The City purchased 3515 Broad Street in August of 2021 to serve as the new City Hall, the location for City Council meetings, and for two election precincts. Other commission and committee meetings are also held at 3515 Broad Street. Along with the main building, a barn is also located on the property to be utilized as storage.

City offices will not be relocated to 3515 Broad Street until after construction is fully complete, so operation will continue at 8123 Main Street (above the PNC Bank) until that time. The City anticipates that the transition to the new facility (moving desks, computers, phones, files, etc) will take approximately one week. During this process, the City Offices will be temporarily closed to foot traffic.

Upon setting the move period, City administration will alert residents of the offices' transition. Members of staff will still be available to answer communications as well as assist residents with services. The City of Dexter expects to hold an open house for residents who wish to tour the new offices once construction is complete, but before the relocation begins.

The City plans to hold an open house for residents to tour the new City Offices prior to staff occupying them. The open house will be Wednesday, February 22nd, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. The first 20 visitors will receive a copy of Visions of the Eagle by Dale Fisher (aerial picture guide coffee table book of Washtenaw County).

## Property Tax Payment During City Office Move

Although we do not have a final move date yet to the new City Hall, it is likely to occur in mid-to-late February. During this time, taxes can be paid as follows:

**By mail** to 8123 Main St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Dexter MI 48130. This office will be staffed through the end of business on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. After that date, the Treasurer has made arrangements with the post office and bank staff to collect mail. Please make sure that you allow 10 business days for the mail to be delivered as postmarks are not accepted.

**In person** at 8123 Main St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. This location will be staffed through the end of business on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The drop box** will continue to be located in front of the bank at 8123 Main Street through the end of February.

**Online** at [www.DexterMI.gov](http://www.DexterMI.gov). There is a user fee for this service.

As a reminder, taxes are due by the close of business (including in the drop box) on February 15<sup>th</sup> in order to not incur penalties. Between February 16<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>, a 3% late fee will be applied. Delinquent real property taxes are turned over to the Washtenaw County Treasurer on March 1<sup>st</sup> and can no longer be accepted by the City.

## 2023 Property Tax Inflation Rate Multiplier

Every property in the State of Michigan has two valuations - the State Equalized Value (or market value), and the Taxable Value, which is the value used to calculate taxes. The Property Tax Act states that if a property has not been sold and has not had any value additions or losses based on modifications to structures or land, the taxable value will increase each year by the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is lower.

The Inflation Rate Multiplier used for this calculation has never reached 5% – until now. The State Tax Commission calculated the inflation increase for 2023 at 7.9%, which is limited by the cap. This 5% increase will be applied to taxable values statewide, and is not something that an assessor or local board of review can change.

## 2023 Assessment Notices

Be on the look-out in early March for your 2023 Notice of Assessment. The only time a property's valuation can be challenged is at the March Board of Review. If you believe that there may be an error in your property's assessment, please review your information on the City's website at [https://dextermi.gov/government/departments\\_and\\_services/property\\_taxes.php](https://dextermi.gov/government/departments_and_services/property_taxes.php) and then contact the assessor with questions. Please be aware that the Board of Review does not have the capability to change the 1.050 Inflation Rate Multiplier on the taxable Value.

## Lawn/Weed Ordinance Update Summary

At their November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Dexter City Council voted to update the City's General Code regulating the growth of lawns, noxious weeds and other harmful plants over 8 inches in height. The revised provisions are located in Chapter 62, Article III of the General Code of Ordinances. The ordinance continues to prohibit growth over 8 inches in height but provides exceptions for public parks, properly maintained natural prairies and rain gardens.

The update includes changes to the process of code enforcement for lawn overgrowth. Beginning in 2023, a public notice will be published in the beginning of every April as a reminder to property owners about the maintenance requirements for their lawns according to this ordinance. Another notice will be published in the beginning of July to serve as an additional reminder. Properties that have unlawful growth will then be given a notice by the enforcement officer either posted on the property or by certified mail allowing for 7 business days to mow or remove weeds. Residents or property owners who receive a violation notice are strongly encouraged to get in touch with the enforcement officer to address any issues or request an extension if needed. Additional time can be extended to the property owner if efforts are clearly being made to make progress toward resolving the issue. If the violation remains unresolved after the 7 business days, or extended date allowed by the enforcement officer, the City or designated contractor will enter onto the property for abatement of the violation and the property owner will be subject to a municipal civil infraction and all costs associated with the abatement will be charged to the property owner.

Please contact the Office of Community Development at (734) 580-2233 with any questions about the changes to the ordinance.

## Recycling List

As a friendly reminder, please be mindful of items you place in your recycling bin. Below is a list of some recycling do's and do not's.



# RECYCLE

## THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:



### Paper



### Cardboard



### Metal



### Plastic



### Glass



**Mixed Paper, Mail,  
and Newspaper**  
(all colors and types)



**Cardboard  
and Paperboard**  
(empty and flatten)



**Aluminum and  
Steel Cans**  
(empty and rinse)



**Plastic Bottles, Jars,  
and Jugs**  
(empty, rinse and  
replace cap)



**Glass Bottles  
and Jars**  
(empty and dry)

## NO!



**Do Not Bag  
Recyclables**  
(no garbage)



**No Plastic Grocery  
Bags, Film, or Wrap**  
(return to retail)



**No Foam**



**No Food or Liquid**  
(empty all containers)



**No Tangles**  
(no hoses, wires,  
chains, or electronics)



**No Hazardous Waste**



[wrrma.org](http://wrrma.org)

734.222.3920  
[recyclewrrma@gmail.com](mailto:recyclewrrma@gmail.com)



## Waste Wizard Tool

Through the City's membership in the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA), residents of the City are able to utilize the Waste Wizard to properly reuse or dispose of various materials. Upon entering your address and a material, the wizard provides locations where you can dispose of that material.

Check out the Waste Wizard at: [https://dextermi.gov/government/departments\\_and\\_services/trash\\_recycling\\_and\\_yard\\_waste.php](https://dextermi.gov/government/departments_and_services/trash_recycling_and_yard_waste.php)

City of Dexter  
8123 Main St, 2nd Fl  
Dexter MI 48130  
(734) 426-8303

Mayor:  
**Shawn Keough**

Council Members:  
**Sanam Aldag**  
**Jamie Griffin**  
**Wa-Louisa Hubbard**  
**Zach Michels**  
**Daniel Schlaff**  
**Joseph Semifero**

City Staff  
**Justin Breyer**  
City Manager/Clerk  
**Josh Tanghe**  
Asst. to the City Manager  
**Michelle Aniol**  
Community Development  
**Tim Stewart**  
Public Utilities Superintendent  
**Marie Sherry**  
Treasurer/Finance Director/  
Assessor  
**Brenda Tuscano**  
Utility Billing Clerk  
**Grace Whitney**  
Associate Planner  
**Jenna Quick**  
Administrative Assistant

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID PERMIT NO. 100  
DEXTER MICHIGAN

The City Offices are located at 8123 Main St, 2nd Floor, above the PNC Bank. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**Elected Officials:**

Mayor  
Shawn Keough: SKeough@DexterMI.gov (313) 363-1434

Council Members  
Sanam Aldag: SAldag@DexterMI.gov (248) 434-7755  
Jamie Griffin: JGriffin@DexterMI.gov (402) 302-9002  
Wa-Louisa Hubbard: WHubbard@DexterMI.gov (734) 883-9711  
Zach Michels: ZMichels@DexterMI.gov (734) 726-0616  
Daniel Schlaff: DSchlaff@DexterMI.gov (734) 645-2024  
Joseph Semifero: JSemifero@DexterMI.gov (734) 604-5871

**Staff:**

City Manager/Clerk: JBreyer@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2234  
Asst. to the City Manager: JTanghe@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2229  
Community Development: MAniol@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2233  
Public Utilities: TStewart@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4572  
Treasurer/Finance/Assessor: MSherry@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2231  
Utility Billing: BTuscano@DexterMI.gov (734) 580-2232  
Public Works: KAugustine@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8530

Utilities After Hour Emergencies: (734) 368-5212

## Dexter City Council Meetings

**3515 Broad St.**  
**Dexter, MI 48130**  
**or Zoom**

**2nd and 4th Mondays**  
**@ 7:00pm**